

naturally energetic, enterprising, and ingenious.

Long have these evils dominated over the destinies of Ireland. The population increased, and with that increase their miseries; and to these they submitted as to an inevitable fatality, until the famine first aroused the sympathies of England, and forced the Legislature to extend to them the benefit of a poor-law. Other events followed, to entice the squalid starvelings to the western lands of plenty: no complaints are there heard of Irish inertness or laziness: on the contrary, the Americans, who are a sagacious people, receive them with open arms, well knowing that the sinews of industry flow in with their immigration, and that they are amongst the best of settlers, as being a purely agricultural race.

Much has been said of the value of transatlantic fishing-grounds, of their being a nursery for sailors, and of the wealth that flows from that species of commerce. It appears that both France and the United States have given bounties for their encouragement; and yet here we have on our very coasts, at home with us, fisheries of the most prolific and exhaustless description, which to this hour have been wholly neglected by our Government!

There is a limited sort of trade carried on there, it is true: the Cloddagh fishermen, near Galway, have from time immemorial pursued the vocation: they have been used to arrogate a prescriptive right to a certain extent of ocean as the privilege of their caste; others they will not permit to fish in these waters, but, as a close corporation, reserve the creatures of the deep as their own locked treasure: they are imbued with the traditional prejudices of their ancestors, and will not fish but on certain days of the week, considering some days as obnoxious to the piscatory saints, and that the continuous pursuit of trade must exhaust the ocean! external to their class have been forcibly driven from their grounds, and yet these people are incapable of providing a sufficiency even for the scant demand of the rural population;

A company of Friends (called Quakers), sensible of the advantages to the country and themselves which might be drawn from these pursuits, for some years successfully followed up a system of fishing by a joint-stock company: if that company yet exist it is feeble. About six years back some individuals in London attempted to get up a company for the purpose, but the effort was abortive from the want of public sympathy: one of them, well known as an author and philanthropist (an Irishman), applied to members high in Government, and received verbally every encouragement: that support, however, only extended to a liberal offer by the then Minister for Foreign Affairs of the uses of his own private property in fish-curing houses on the coast of Mayo. A request was made for a loan of 10,000*l.* in aid of the project: that favour was refused; and in the absence of any other bounty the thing fell to the ground. If fishing stations are not built at the expense of the Exchequer, at least loans at 4 per cent. might be advanced to responsible companies for the encouragement of so valuable a staple of trade.

It now appears that the question is assuming an importance in national points of view: it is certain that the inhospitable climate and uninviting region of Newfoundland has, by the fisheries, realised a larger revenue than some states of Europe can command; and it is equally certain that the elements of wealth exist in abundance more approachable and more useful on our own coasts; that the exploitation of that field of commerce would tend to the improvement and independence of the least cultivated and poorest of British subjects; and that a nursery for the national navy can be cheaply and profitably established in our own harbours: those harbours mayhap need improvement; there is no lack of engineering and architectural science any more than of funds to carry such into effect. Let the Government but speak, and it will be responded to around our coasts—"At thy word we will cast in the net." QUONDAM.

PARIS.

THE president has ordered the purchase of a number of pictures which formed part of the last Exposition of Modern Art. The next exposition of the works of living artists, native and foreign, is fixed to take place on the 15th of March, 1853, and will last two months.—M. Hittorff has been commissioned by the Préfet of the Seine to direct the decoration of the Bois de Boulogne.—M. C. Clerget is publishing a collection of ornaments of the Renaissance.* The work will consist of twenty *livraisons* of six plates each, and the parts already published are well spoken of.—The works in the court of the Louvre are being pushed forward with much activity: the new grass plots (*boulingrins*!) have been bordered, the bronze candelabra have been replaced upon elegant pedestals, and four octagonal compartments and walks have been formed with bitumen.

THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

THE annual country meeting of the Archæological Institute was opened at Newcastle on the 24th August, when the corporation presented an address to the president (Lord Talbot de Malahide) and members. The president, in the course of his inauguration speech, said, the Government ought in every way to encourage the establishment of local museums, such as those of which this town could boast, for many a noble work would be preserved if that were the case. There was scarcely a town on the Continent which had not its local museum, in which objects of the highest interests were to be found, illustrative of history and the arts. Another object in which the Government could well interfere was by aiding in the publication of ancient documents, such as could not be undertaken by private persons. The preservation of ancient monuments was also a question in which the Government was bound to interfere. In France, and even in republican Switzerland, it was contrary to the law to destroy any ancient building which was associated with the history of the country; and he thought it was important, having due regard to the rights of property, that power should be lodged in the Government to interfere in flagrant instances of the decay or destruction of ancient monuments. He believed one of the most interesting Roman memorials in this country, the Roman Theatre at St. Alban's, was about to be demolished by a public company at this moment, and it would be in the recollection of almost every one that a great number of time-hallowed objects had from time to time been allowed to disappear within the sphere of his observation. Had he an eye to London Wall?

There was a conversation in the evening. On Wednesday papers were read,—by Mr. Hinde, "On the History of Newcastle and Gateshead during the Saxon Times;" by Mr. H. Hinde, "On the Trade of Newcastle previous to Henry III.;" by Mr. T. J. Taylor, "On the History of the Coal Trade;" by the Rev. Mr. Traberne, "On the Votive Monument of Kloster Newburg, near Vienna," and others. Mr. Taylor concluded his paper with the following estimate of the total present consumption of coal in Great Britain. In operations connected with metallic ores, 10,500,000 tons; for railways and gas, 3,400,000 tons; for domestic consumption and all other purposes, 22,000,000 tons; total, 35,900,000 tons; exported, 3,500,000 tons; total, 39,400,000 tons.

On Thursday, in the Architectural Section, Mr. Edmund Sharpe, with after-reference to a description of Tynemouth Priory, gave an exposition of his views on the periods of Gothic architecture, with which our readers are familiar.

Mr. Dobson, jun. read a paper on the Lady Chapel, at Tynemouth, and the Rev. C. Hartshorne an account of the Castle at Alnwick. The castle seemed to have been erected, he said, between the years 1140 and 1180. Several portions especially showed that they were built in the early Norman period. A paper was also

* Collection Portative d'Ornements de la Renaissance.

read by Mr. Sopwith on "The History of Lead Mining," in which he urged that it would be of great advantage for the government to have systematic descriptions regularly made of the state of our mines, with plans and sections.

At a public banquet, on Thursday, the principal event was the speech of Lord Carlisle: "Where more than here," said he, "can we see the most interesting vestiges of our own mediæval era, the stately priory and the pillared cathedral, whether in picturesque ruins above the cliff of Tynemouth, or still towering, in unspoiled massiveness, over the hill of Durham? Where, too, can we see the marvels of modern skill and enterprise more than in these stupendous arches, close to where we are met, which span the depths of Jesmond-vale on the one hand, and the stately river of your ancient town on the other, and which, if constructed with more than Roman skill, do not tend, like their undying works, to repel hostile aggression, to ward off rough barbarians, but rather to facilitate, in a manner before unexampled, universal intercourse, and to speed the production of peace and civilization on wings of wind throughout the land?"

On the 28th a large party visited Durham, where the Rev. J. Raine read an historical account of the cathedral. A luncheon given by Archdeacon Thorpe in the dining-room of University College followed. We can only further mention that on the 30th the meeting visited Hesbam, and under the guidance of the Rev. Mr. Turner examined the remains of the Abbey church and monastery, which were first built after the Roman manner by St. Willfrid, about the year 673. They afterwards traced the course of the Roman Wall with the Rev. J. C. Bruce, and lunched with the town-clerk of Newcastle.

THE ASSERTED DISCOVERIES IN THE ACROPOLIS AT ATHENS.

WE reported recently (p. 537) a statement from Athens by M. Bellet (or Beulé), a French savant, that he had discovered the ancient staircase which led to the principal entrance to the Acropolis, and the honour conferred on him in consequence. A recent letter from M. Renaud, a French architect, to M. F. Pigeory, throws doubt upon the truth of the statement. M. Renaud, who writes from the spot, asserts that the parts discovered have nothing antique about them, and must have been the work either of the Romans, or of the French dukes who reigned at Athens about the year 1200. He is prepared to prove it, he says, by numerous sketches, and will show that the construction is formed of antique remains, amongst which are fragments of ornaments reversed and a Roman inscription. It is not right, therefore, he says, to allow it longer to be believed that we have recovered the ancient staircase of the Acropolis and its entrance. M. Bellet appears to have jumped to a conclusion too quickly.

SUSPENSION BRIDGES.—Messrs. Dredge and Stephenson are erecting a suspension-bridge at Caerhowel, Montgomery, across the Severn, 150 feet span and 20 feet wide, at a cost of 2,600*l.* for the county magistracy. The same engineers have put up two cast-iron arched girder bridges over the ornamental water at St. Margaret's, Isleworth, for Lord Kilmorey; and are about a suspension-bridge at Bradwell-next-Coggeshall, Essex, across the Blackwater, 52 feet span and 17 feet wide, which will cost 400*l.* for the county magistracy. Messrs. Young are the contractors in each case.

IMPROVED NAIL AND BOLT MACHINERY.—Messrs. J. Hinks and E. Nicolle, of Birmingham, have patented a machine for feeding metal rods to engines for making nails, bolts, rivets, and screw blanks, for tapering the rods by causing them to pass between rolling surfaces, the axes of which at the same time gradually approach each other; and for an improved machine for cutting off these partially formed nails, &c. by causing the dividing tools to approach each other by the action of a screw, the thread of which is partially right and partly left handed.